

State of Tennessee TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

SUITE 1950, PARKWAY TOWERS 404 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0820

(615) 741-1346 • 1-800-342-1663 • FAX (615) 741-6101 http://www.state.tn.us/tsac

CONTACT: CARRINGTON FOX

PHONE (615) 741-1346 x105

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 8, 2004

LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHES "SCHOLAR DOLLARS" WEB SITE USER-FRIENDLY PORTAL FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, COUNSELORS

Nashville, Tenn.— The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) has launched a fun, user-friendly web site to promote the HOPE Scholarship and other Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) awards. Located at www.tnscholarships.com, the site presents information regarding the new scholarships in an informal and engaging format.

Dr. Myron Oglesby-Pitts, deputy executive director of TELS, said, "Scholar Dollars' is an umbrella name that covers all the awards under the new lottery scholarship program, including the HOPE Scholarship, the merit- and need-based supplemental awards, and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant. We hope 'Scholar Dollars' will become a familiar brand name that students, families and educators go to first for information about the lottery scholarships."

At TNScholarDollars.com, visitors enter the site according to their particular interests. For example, high school students, home school students and financial aid officers enter the site differently, and information about eligibility and applications is presented with their various needs in mind.

TNScholarDollars.com includes profiles of the five TELS awards; eligibility requirements for students; information for high school and college officials; and application and renewal information. Other features include a list of required college core courses, links to eligible Tennessee schools and contact information for customer service.

Students who are eligible for TELS can apply for scholarships by applying for enrollment in a Tennessee college, university or technology center and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the official application for TELS. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Hard-copy applications are available from high school counselors, college and university financial aid offices, and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). The deadline for FAFSA processing is May 1. Processing of hard-copy applications could take up to six weeks. Online processing takes one week to two weeks.

Eligible students can receive up to \$4,000 per academic year to help pay for tuition at a college, university, or technology center in Tennessee.

For more information about TELS or the HOPE Scholarship, visit <u>www.TNScholarDollars.com</u>, or call the HOPE Hotline at (615) 741-1346 or (800) 342-1663.

###

The State of Tennessee is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer.